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C/540 - WS Ca		9/2		Retroactive promotions may
	rene	2/3	100	be made in circumstances where clerical or administrative
		ME		error resulted in the failure
				to carry out a nondiscretionary administrative regulation or &
			The street of	policy.
				If a nondiscretionary per-
				sonnel policy exists which
		1000		provided that the computer specialist's promotions were
6.				to be effective on a specific
Dolleri				date (as opposed to a date
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				evaluated GS-09, GS-10 and GS-11 ADP personnel had neither: a) the
11.		34.2837		correct understanding of the es-
				tablished effective date for promotion from GS-11 to GS-12; nor b)
2		15 T. 16	(C) =	the authority to set a different
The second secon				date, it appears that Jim's note above will allow you to sign these
ÂT (12)	1 3 8 2 E		<b>3</b> 5 3.1.	actions.
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DECISIONS OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL The data on the subject IRS employees is as follows:

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## retroactive

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Agent Aldinger, Evelyn E. Booth, Barbera J. Dittmann, Donald A. Harvel, Charles M. Wallins, Sanford H. Wiechec, Donald A.	Appointme Date 9/24/73 9/24/73 9/24/73 9/24/73 10/1/73	GS-7 to GS-9 GS-5 to GS-7 GS-7 to GS-9 GS-7 to GS-9 GS-7 to GS-9	9/29/74 9/29/74 9/29/74
Zingaro, David J.	10/9/73	GS-7 to GS-9 GS-7 to GS-9	10/13/74

10/1/73 10/13/74 GS-5 to GS-7 Our decisions have generally held that personnel actions, including promotions, cannot be made retroactively effective unless clerical or administrative errors occurred that (1) prevented a personnel action from taking effect as originally intended, (2) deprived an employee of a right granted by statute or regulation, or (3) would result in failure to carry out a nondiscretionary administrative regulation or policy if not adjusted retroactively. See 54 Comp. Gen. 263 (1974), and decisions cited therein; 52 id. 920 (1973); and 50 id. 850 (1971). We have also recognized that the above-stated exceptions to the general rule, prohibiting retroactively effective personnel actions, may constitute "unjustified or unwarranted personnel action[s]" under 5 U.S. Code § 5596 (1970), and consequently he remediable through the pay ment of backpay (B-180056, May 28, 1974, and 54 Comp. Gen. 312

Furthermore, our recent decisions considering the legality of implementing binding arbitration awards, which relate to Federal employees covered by collective-bargaining agreements, have held that the provisions of such agreements may constitute nondiscretionary agency policies if consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including Executive Order 11491, as amended. Therefore, when an arbitrator acting within proper authority and consistent with applicable laws and Comptroller General decisions, decides that an agency has violated an agreement, that such violation directly results in a loss of pay, and awards backpay to remedy that loss, the agency head can lawfully implement a backpay award for the period during which the employee would have received the pay but for the violation, so long as the relevant provision is properly includable in the agreement. Sec 54 Comp. Gen. 312 (1974); 54 id. 435 (1974); 54 id. 888 (1975). Similarly, an agency head on his own initiative, without waiting for the matter to come before an arbitrator, may conclude that the agreement has been

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